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The operetta from which this is taken is so full of beauties that I should hail with delight a cheap edition from the house of Novello, Ewer and Co.; at present a copy can only be "picked up" at a second-hand book-stall.

Yours, &c.

Jan. 15, 1869. WILLIAM H. CUMMINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MUSICAL TIMES.

SIR,—I hope you will allow me to take exception to a remark in your last issue, which appears in your notice of the *Leeds Tune Book*. Your critic has there compared the tunes of the *Appendix of the Hymnal Noted* with Richard Weaver's Hymn Tune-book—now that "extremes meet," &c. Probably he thought he had made a good joke, as well as had a rap at the "Ritualists"; he could not have been, I hope, seriously speaking, either as a musical judge or a critic. I have not the least wish to defend the few poor tunes in the book of the Appendix, as they are so amply avenged by the good, which preponderate to such an excess as to make it impossible to form a comparison. But if your critic did write seriously, I can only say he has grossly erred, either from ignorance, or wilfully published an untruth. On these grounds, I shall be obliged if you will find space to insert this in your next number.

Your obedient servant,

Jan. 22, 1869. HENRY A. WALKER.

[The writer of the notice referred to will take the opportunity of replying to the above letter in our next impression.—ED. M. T.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** *Notices of concerts, and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.*

We beg to remind our correspondents that all notices of country concerts, whether written or extracted from newspapers, must be accompanied by the name and address of the person who sends them.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers that, although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

R. W. R.—*We have no means of ascertaining.*

J. H. Cooling.—*We cannot give you any definite information upon the subject. The burden of proof rather rests with those who dispute the authorship of the work. We have ourselves little doubt on the matter.*

W. Wax.—*We think that "frequent practice on the highest notes" would break down the little voice you have. Consult a competent singing master. We do not understand the question contained in your postscript.*

An Amateur.—*Our correspondent will find many of his questions answered in our leading article. Space will not admit of our entering into the subject of the characteristics of various keys.*

A Subscriber.—1. *We are not quite sure, but we think it has not been translated into English.*—2. *An explanatory review of* Israel, *we believe, may be found in the book of words issued by the Sacred Harmonic Society, Exeter Hall.*—3. *The only thing necessary is, that the music shall be good enough for insertion.*

The Title Page and Index to Vol. XIII., will appear in the next Number.

The continuation of the "Incidents in the Life of Beethoven," will appear as soon as the pressure of other matter will permit.

Brief Summary of Country News.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.

ALDERLEY PARK, CHESHIRE.—The tenth Annual Concert at the seat of the Hon. Lord Stanley, of Alderley, took place on Monday, the 4th ult., with much success. Mr. Campbell, of Islay, gave several Scotch songs with the utmost effect; and the Hon. Mrs. George Howard was especially happy in the two old songs, "I attempt from Love's sickness to fly," and "Greensleeves." The choruses were most ably sung by the young people in the Parish. The Hon. Miss Stanley, of Alderley, took an active part in the performance, but the rich contralto voice of the Countess of Airlie was much missed during the evening. Mr. Twiss, as usual, conducted the concert which owed much of its effectiveness to his instruction.

ANDOVER.—The First Concert of the Choral Society, for the present season, took place on the 17th December, at the Town Hall. The solo vocalists were Miss Aylward, of Salisbury; Mr. Thomas Hunt, of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, Windsor; and Mr. Pennel Cross, of the Winchester Cathedral choir. Mozart's 12th Mass, was the work selected for performance; and every justice was done to it both by the principal singers engaged and the Choral Society; the fugue, "Thou, Lord, art God alone," especially proving that the members of the choir had been excellently trained.

BIRKENHEAD.—The Cambrian Choral Society gave its Annual Concert in the Workmen's Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 30th December, the performance being Handel's *Messiah*. The vocalists were, Mrs. Billinie Porter, Miss Fanny Armstrong; Mr. George Barton and Mr. F. J. Cutts. Mr. Skeaf presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. B. Porter at the harmonium. Mr. Parry was conductor. There was a chorus of eighty voices. Several solos were warmly encored; and the concert was in every respect highly successful.

BIRMINGHAM, WARWICK STREET.—The Harmonium recently purchased by the friends in connection with the above place of worship, was opened on Sunday, the 27th December, by Mr. W. Masefield, jun., when various hymns were sung. On Monday, a public tea-meeting was held, and selections were given from Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Novello, Rink, Boyce, Costa, &c., by Mr. W. Masefield, jun.

BOLTON.—The third Concert of the Philharmonic Society took place at the Temperance Hall, on the 13th ult. The principal vocalists were Madlle. Titiens, Madlle. Bauermeister, Madlle. Scalchi, Signor Bulterini, Signor Ciampi, and Mr. Santley who gave a selection of vocal music which showed the powers of these well-known artists to the utmost advantage. A new song by Signor Bevignani, "Hurrah for the King," sung in his best style by Mr. Santley, created a marked effect. The pianoforte solos of M. Wehli were a great feature in the performance. Signor Bevignani was a most efficient conductor.

BRISTOL.—The "Ladies' night" of the Bristol Madrigal Society, on the 14th ult., was in every respect one of the most successful ever given by this excellent Association. There was little novelty in the programme; but novelty is scarcely desired where old favourites are so exquisitely presented to the audience year after year as to cause only increased desire for a closer acquaintance. Amongst the most effective of the compositions given were Mendelssohn's "Victors' return," Pearsall's "Light of my soul," Macfarren's "O gentle Summer rain," Weelkes' "Nightingale," and Pearsall's "Come, let us be merry;" but where every piece is so well given, and so rapturously received, it is somewhat invidious to select any for special commendation. The choir, which con-

sisted of ninety-two singers, was directed most ably by Mr. D. Rootham, the light and shade in the madrigals and part-songs being observed with the nicest discrimination.

Broseley.—A Concert was given at the Town Hall, on the 5th ult., for the benefit of Mr. Charles Roden, (church organist of this town), who has been compelled, from illness. to give up his duties, at least for the present. The programme was varied, and well selected; and, considering the object for which the entertainment was organised, we are glad to say that the room was crowded in every part.

Bury St. Edmund's.—The Parish Church of Great Barton has been lately enriched by a new Organ, the gift of Sir Charles Bunbury, Bart. It was opened by Mr. Sutton, jun., with full Choral Service, on Christmas-day. The instrument was built by the firm of Speechly and Ingram, Camden Organ Works, London, N.W., and is greatly admired for its power, sweetness of tone, and elegant design.

Cambridge.—The Musical Society lately established at St. Andrew the Great gave its first Concert on the 5th ult., when a selection from Handel's Oratorio, *Joshua*, was performed in a manner which reflected the utmost credit both upon the Society and their conductor, Mr. W. G. Robinson. The second part was miscellaneous, and contained a violoncello and pianoforte duet, by Mr. Robinson and Miss Groves (most effectively rendered) and several part-songs.

Canterbury.—The Harmonic Union performed Haydn's *Creation*, in the Music Hall, on Tuesday, December 29th, Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. Leigh Wilson, and Mr. Orlando Christian, being the solo vocalists; principal violin, Mr. H. W. Hill. The band and chorus numbered 150; and the execution of the work was thoroughly satisfactory. Mr. Longhurst conducted.

Carnarvon.—A Concert, under the patronage of the Members of the County, and the Hon. T. J. Wynne, was lately given by Mr. Ellis Roberts, the eminent harpist. He was assisted by Miss Kate Roberts (piano), Mr. E. Roberts, jun., (violin), and Misses Ellen Glanville and Adelaide Newton (vocalists). The vocal solos were exceedingly well received, and the violin and pianoforte variations, played by Miss Kate Roberts and Mr. Ellis Roberts, jun., were loudly applauded. Mr. Ellis Roberts displayed his usual taste in his performance on the harp. Mr. Roberts has also given several other successful concerts during his winter tour in Wales.

Cockermouth.—On the 29th December, the third Concert of the Cockermouth Harmonic Society was given in the Royal Assembly Rooms. The first part was devoted to sacred, and the second to secular music. The principal vocalists were Miss Beck, Miss Hunter, Mr. Mellor, and Mr. C. J. Lewthwaite. The Concert was highly creditable to the Society; both the choruses and the solos being excellently rendered.

Dewsbury.—The members of the Dewsbury Choral Society gave their Forty-second Concert on Tuesday evening, December 29th, in the Parish Church School Room, when Haydn's *Creation* was performed. The principals were Miss Annie Thirlwall, soprano; Mr. R. Mason (of Westminster Abbey), tenor, and Mr. Brandon (of Gloucester Cathedral), bass. The band and chorus consisted of upwards of 100 performers. The choruses were so well rendered as to reflect much credit on Mr. J. W. Dean, the conductor. Mr. Haddock, of Leeds, was the leader.

Edinburgh.—Professor Oakeley gave an excellent performance of classical music on the organ at the Music Class-room, Park Place, on the afternoon of the 16th ult. The programme was varied, and selected with the most refined taste. Every piece was listened to with the utmost interest by a large and most appreciative audience; and a portion of the Kreutzer Sonata was redemanded.

Exeter.—The Oratorio Society gave a performance of Haydn's *Creation* on the 22nd December, at the Public Rooms. The principal vocalists were Miss Banks, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Orlando Christian, all of whom were highly successful. Several of the choruses were exceedingly well given. Mr. Rendle was principal violin; leader, Mr. Rice; conductor, Herr Eberlein.

Ganerew, Hereford.—On the 7th and 8th ult., two Concerts were given in the School-room, with the view of meeting the expenses of enrolling the Ganerew Choir in the Diocesan Choral Union. An attractive programme was provided; and the manner in which the choral music was performed showed how rapidly the Society had progressed during the past year. Vocal solos and duets were also given with much effect by Mr. James Hogan, of Foyle College, Londonderry, the Misses Langley, Miss Harding, and Mr. F. W. Hogan. The accompaniments were excellently played by Mr. F. W. Hogan, who opened each Concert with a pianoforte solo.

Garston.—On Monday evening, the 4th ult., a performance of the *Messiah* was given in the Reading Room, before a numerous and fashionable audience, on the occasion of opening a new organ, built by Rushworth and Sons. The proceeds were devoted to the benefit of the Garston Dispensary and Reading Room. The principals were Mrs. Billinie Porter, Mrs. George Keefe, Mr. J. P. Willy, and Mr. F. J. Cutts; Mr. Lawrence conducted, Mr. Lawson led the band, and Mr. D. C. Browne presided at the organ. Mrs. B. Porter was encored in "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and Mr. Cutts was highly successful in "Thou shalt break them." The new organ has an excellent tone.

Glasgow.—Morning and Evening Concerts were given by the Choral Union on New Years-day, which were well attended. The programme of the morning performance contained Spohr's Oratorio, *The Last Judgment*, and a selection of sacred music, for which Madame Florence Lancia, Mr. W. H. Cummings and Signor Foli, were engaged. At the Evening Concert, a miscellaneous selection of secular music was given, and Handel's Serenata, *Acis and Galatea*; Miss Margaretta Smyth appearing, in addition to those vocalists already mentioned. Both these performances were eminently successful; the choruses especially being sung with a steadiness and precision, which reflected the utmost credit upon the Society. The duties of organist and accompanist were ably discharged by Mr. Peace; and Mr. Lambeth was, as usual, a most efficient conductor.

Gloucester.—The Choral Society gave the first Concert of the season on Monday evening, the 28th Dec., at the Shire Hall. The principal vocalists were Miss Clarke, Miss Edith Taylor (Royal Academy), Master Monk, and Messrs. Jakeway, Woodward and Pickford. The choruses were given with great precision and effect. Mr. J. A. Matthews ably presided at the organ; and the concert was conducted by Mr. J. Hunt.

Greenwich.—The Saturday Concerts, given by Messrs. Hunt and Thornton, in the Lecture Hall, have been well attended. On the 26th December, and on the 9th ult., the vocalists were Miss Blanche Reeves, Miss Lucy Franklein, Mr. R. Mason, Mr. Christian, &c. Many of the ballads were encored on both occasions; and the concerted music was exceedingly well received. Mr. Rycroft and Mr. H. Wheeler, were the accompanists: solo concertina, Mr. R. S. Castleden; violin, Mr. H. Griesbach.

Hammersmith.—A Concert was given at the West End Lecture Hall, on Friday, the 15th ult., by Miss Fairman, which was numerously attended. Miss Fairman was rapturously encored in Ganz's song, "Since yesterday"; and the duet with Signor Caravoglia was most effectively

rendered. Miss Fanny Holland sang the "Jewel Song," from *Faust*, exceedingly well; and Miss Stocken's song, "Destiny," was given with much feeling. Mr. Byron and Signor Caravoglia were also highly successful in their vocal music. The instrumental portion of the programme was very good; and the concert, under the able direction of Mr. Ganz and Mr. Gollmick, was thoroughly satisfactory.

Hogsthorpe.—A Concert by the Hogsthorpe and Wainfleet tonic sol-fa classes was given on the 28th Dec. Several glees and choruses were well rendered; and some received an encore. The principal solo vocalists were Miss C. Addison, Miss Holmes, Mrs. Adlard, Miss Scupholme, Mr. W. Holmes, and Mr. W. Whipham. Mr. Ferdinand, a schoolmaster (who is about to leave Wainfleet), conducted.

Kettering.—A Miscellaneous Concert, by musical Amateurs of Kettering and neighbourhood, was given at the Corn Exchange, on the 4th ult., under the able leadership of Mr. Wise. The programme was well selected, and ably executed. The pianoforte playing of H. Nettleship, Esq., and the singing of Messrs. F. Madge and J. C. Whall, deserve particular mention: the part songs were also exceedingly well rendered. The large hall was well filled, and the Concert was pronounced to have been one of the most enjoyable that has been given at Kettering.

Leeds.—A most attractive Concert was given at the Town Hall on the 9th ult., the programme entirely selected from the compositions of Mr Henry Smart. The idea originated with Dr. Spark, who played in excellent style two organ solos, a "Grand Solemn March," in E flat, and an *Andante* and *Allegro*. The vocalists were Miss Helena Walker, Miss Winder, Miss Annie Angon, Mr. C. Videon Harding, Mr. Dodds, and a number of the members of the Madrigal and Motett Society. Besides several vocal solos, the programme included many excellent part-songs, for the composition of which Mr. Smart has obtained so high a name; and an interesting feature in the selection was a portion of the Service in F, which the composer conducted in person.

Leicester.—On Christmas Day a performance of *Judas Maccabæus* was given at Curzon-street Chapel, conducted by Mr. C. Oldershaw. The solo singers were Miss Pegg, Mrs. Barrows, Miss Porter, Messrs. Hickman, Lawrence, T. P. Waddington, and Laxton; principal violin, Mr. T. Weston; organist, Mr. Garner.——On the 30th Dec., the *Creation* was given, with much success, in the Temperance Hall, by the New Philharmonic Society, conducted by Mr. H. Nicholson. The principal vocalists were Miss H. Walker, Miss Deacon, Messrs. R. Mason and Santley. The band was unusually good, particularly in the wind department. Mr. V. Nicholson was the leader, and Mr. G. A. Löhr rendered valuable assistance at the harmonium.

Leighton.—The recently formed Leighton and Linslade Choral Society, gave a very excellent performance of Handel's Oratorio, *Judas Maccabæus*, on the 17th December, under the direction of Mr. C. D. Mortimer, the talented conductor to the Society. The principal vocalists were Miss S. Cole, Miss M. Potter, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. William Roebuck. The band and chorus numbered upwards of 120 performers; and the entire performance was in every respect highly successful. Mr. C. Inwards was leader of the band, and Mr. Anderton presided at the Harmonium.

Lifford.—The opening of the New Parish Hall took place on Sunday the 10th ult., when a special Sunday-school Service was given. On Thursday, the Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe gave a lecture, after which, several pieces of music were most ably rendered by the members of the Church Choir, under the direction of Mr. Stephen Löwe, who accompanied on the pianoforte and harmonium. The Concert, on Friday evening, given by the Lifford Choral Society, was brilliantly successful. A selection of glees, part-songs, &c., were exceedingly well given; and amongst the vocal solos, Miss Little's "The winds that waft my sighs to thee," (Wallace), Miss Van Belle's "I must love thee still, Marion" (Dr. Stewart); and Mr. Löwe's "Non piu andrai," were especially worthy of mention. Mr. Löwe and Miss Donnell's violin and pianoforte duet, on airs from *William Tell*, was also a prominent feature in the concert.

Liverpool.—The First Philharmonic Concert for the year was given on the 12th ult., the principal vocal artists being Madlle. Titiens, Madlle. Scalchi, Signor Bulterini, and Mr. Santley. The first part was devoted to Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. The second part was miscellaneous, and commenced with a fine performance of Haydn's Sinfonia in E flat, No. 8. Madlle. Scalchi made on this occasion her first appearance at these concerts, and was very warmly received; her powerful contralto voice and excellent style being highly appreciated. Mr. Santley sang an excellent song, by A. S. Sullivan, called "I wish to tune my quivering Lyre," which was much admired. Mr. E. W. Thomas introduced a new violin solo, of his own composition; Barcarole and Tarantella, which also received much applause; and the Concert closed with Auber's Overture to *Leocadie*.——The Liverpool Musical Society's annual performance of the *Messiah* (postponed from the 31st December) was given on the 1st ult., with much success. The principal vocalists were Miss Helena Walker, Miss Chadwick, Mr. Leigh Wilson, and Mr. Merrick, all of whom were highly effective. The band and chorus was most efficient; in proof of which it may be mentioned that the "Pastoral Symphony," and the two choruses, "For unto us" and the "Hallelujah" were redemanded. Mr. Sanders conducted with much care and judgment.——At the adjourned annual meeting of the Philharmonic Society, on the 14th ult., the report of the committee showed a most satisfactory excess of receipts over expenditure; and the chairman (Mr. W. Winter Raffles) congratulated the proprietors upon the fact that there was now a balance to their credit of £170, instead of a deficit of nearly £400, as was the case in 1867.

Llangollen.—On Tuesday Evening, the 29th December, an Amateur Concert was given in the Assembly Room, in aid of the Band Fund of the 9th Denbighshire Rifle Volunteer Corps. An interesting and varied programme was provided, the instrumental portion of which included some very excellent selections for the band; Mendelssohn's "Military Duet," in C, played with much effect on the pianoforte, by the Misses Tanqueray, and a solo on the cornet, by Mr. J. W. Jones. Several glees were also given; and a *débûtante*, Miss H. B. Morris, of Rhyl, received the most flattering marks of approval for her rendering of two vocal solos. Mr. Frederick Owen ably accompanied most of the songs. The room, which was tastefully decorated, was quite full; and we are glad to find that the receipts were not far short of £25.

Loughborough.—A Concert of Sacred Music was given in the Baxter Gate Chapel on the evening of Christmas-day. The principal artists were Mrs. Pemberton, Miss Turney, Mr. J. Adcock and Mr. G. Essex, of the Nottingham Sacred Harmonic Society; organist, Miss Topley; pianist, Miss Elliott; conductor, Mr. G. Adcock, of Loughborough. Leader, Mr. T. Henshaw, ably assisted by Mr. J. Kilby, of the Leicester Concerts. The choruses were selected from the *Messiah*, *Judas*, *Creation*, and Haydn's *Third Mass*, &c., all of which were creditably performed by a choir of fifty voices. The chapel was full to overflowing.

Luton.—A Concert was given in the New Plait Hall, Waller Street, on the 19th ult, before a large audience. Miss Blanche Reeves, Mr. F. Percival, and Mr Orlando Christian were the artists engaged, assisted by Messrs. Thomas and Thornton, and the band of the Luton Volunteers. Mr. Lee was conductor.——On the

20th ult., another Concert was given in the Larger Plait Hall, when upwards of 3000 persons were present. The programme contained an excellent selection of vocal and instrumental music; the same artists being retained on both occasions. The Concerts were a great success.

Lydney.—Mr. J. A. Matthews's Annual Concert was given at the Assembly Room, on Monday, the 18th ult. The vocalists were Miss Clarke, Miss Taylor, Messrs. R. A. Matthews, A. Thomas, and J. A. Matthews. Instrumental solos, &c., were played by Mr. Poole (flute); Mr. Hooper (harmonium), and Mr. Matthews (pianoforte). The Concert was highly successful.

Manchester.—Mr. Yarwood's Concert, given at the Free Trade Hall, on the 9th ult. was fully and fashionably attended, most of the patrons being present. Miss Chadwick was well received in all her vocal solos (being twice encored), and Mr. Carlos Lovatt and Miss Henderson were also highly successful. A feature in the programme was the Part-song, "Gently sighs" (the words and music by the concert-giver), which was sung by the several glee parties combined, with the utmost effect, and most enthusiastically received. Solos were given by Herr Otto Bernhardt (violin), and Mr. Avison (violoncello; and the Lancashire Bell-ringers performed some selections, which were warmly applauded.——The Annual performance of the *Messiah*, on the 24th December, was unquestionably the finest given in Manchester for many years. The principal vocalists were Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Madame Patey-Whytock, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley. Mr. Sims Reeves sang throughout the Oratorio as only he can sing; the intensity and pathos which he threw into the recitatives and airs descriptive of the sorrows of the Redeemer, and the power with which he gave the energetic song, "Thou shalt dash them," forming a lesson of legitimate vocalization, which should be taken to heart by all young singers. All the principal vocalists were also in excellent voice, and sang their very best on the occasion.——The fourth of the series of Concerts by the Manchester Vocal Society was given on the 19th ult., with much success. Several part-songs were given with good effect; one by Mr. W. J. Young, "Come let us be merry," being especially well received. The principal solo vocalists were Miss Fanny Henderson, Miss Tomlinson, Mr. W. Dumville, &c., all of whom gave the utmost satisfaction in the music allotted to them.

Marlborough.—The Concert which forms the concluding scene of the "Christmas half," at Marlborough College, was this year unusually successful. The programme was well selected; and contained several glees and part-songs, which were excellently rendered. "The Welcome," (words by a Master of the College, and music by Mr. Bambridge), was most effectively given; and the successful teaching of Mr. Bambridge was amply proved by the artistic pianoforte performance of no less than six of his pupils. A great feature of the Concert was the selection from Beethoven's Sonata Op. 2, No. 1. which was played with true musical feeling by Mr. Bambridge. The performance concluded, as usual, with the holiday song, "Carmen Marlburiense," which was sung by the whole school.—A selection of Christmas Carols formed a pleasing portion of an entertainment given in this town, on the evening after the College Concert. The training of the choir, under Mr. Bambridge (who also composed several of the carols which were sung), was the theme of general admiration.

Maryport.—The Annual Charity Concert and Ball took place in the Music Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 5th ult., and was in every respect a great success. The music, as usual, was under the direction of the Messrs. Graham, assisted by Messrs. Scott, Buttifant, and Barber (of the Cathedral Choir), Mr. Casson (Wigton), and Mr. H. Thompson (Harrington). The programme contained songs, glees, and instrumental pieces, all of which were given with much effect, several being encored.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—The Annual Christmas Performance of the *Messiah*, by the Sacred Harmonic and Choral Society (recently re-organised under the conductorship of Mr. Frederick Helmore), took place on the 23rd December. The principal artists were Miss Susanna Cole, soprano, Miss E. Leybourne, contralto, Mr. J. H. Price, tenor, Mr. L. Thomas, bass; Mr. R. Watson, leader. Mr. J. Nicholson presided at the organ, and Mr. Helmore conducted. Miss Leybourne made a most promising *début;* and all the other solo singers were favourably received. Mr. Helmore conducted the choruses with much precision and care.

Newport, Monmouth.—On the 5th ult., the Sacred Harmonic Society gave the *Messiah*, at the Town Hall. The whole of the solos and choruses were sung by the members of the Society; and so well as to elicit the warm applause of the audience. Mr. H. J. Groves conducted in his usual able manner; and the string band was led by Mr. A. Waite, of Bristol. Miss Pritchard was the accompanist. The next performance of the Society will be Costa's *Eli.*

North Berwick.—On the 13th ult., a most successful Concert was given by the Amateur Musical Society, under the patronage of Sir Hew and Lady Dalrymple, the latter of whom, in a solo and duet (with Mr. C. S. Vinning) on the pianoforte, showed a cultivated taste and good execution. Several choral pieces were executed by the members of the Society, the effects of Mr. Vinning's careful training being amply proved by the steadiness and precision with which all these were sung. Mr. Vinning's pianoforte solos were an interesting feature in the concert.

Paisley.—The members of the Paisley Musical Association gave their first secular Concert at the Drill Hall, on the 4th ult. The programme was exceedingly attractive, containing a well chosen selection of glees, part-songs, &c., all of which were executed with the utmost care and precision by the choir. Several songs were also successfully given; and two overtures were performed by an efficient orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Alexander Thompson. Mr. J. R. Fraser conducted with decision and judgment.

Patrick Brompton, near Bedale.—On Tuesday, the 29th Dec., a Concert was given in the schoolroom, by Mr. J. Lax, organist, assisted by Mr. W. Prendergast and friends. The performance was highly successful.

Perth.—On the evening of the 22nd December, a performance of Haydn's *Creation* was given in the City Hall, by the Perth Choral Union. The solo vocalists were Madame Emmeline Cole, Mr. Arthur Byron, and Herr Formes; Mr. C. J. Hargitt, accompanied on the harmonium, and Herr Arnold, of Dundee, conducted. The execution of the work was in every respect highly satisfactory. In addition to the harmonium accompaniment, a small orchestra, led by Mr. Stevenson, from Dundee, assisted.

Pickhill, Thirsk.—A Concert was given, on Monday, the 28th Dec., in the schoolroom, by Mr. W. Prendergast, organist of Burneston, assisted by the Carthorpe Singing Class and friends. The programme consisted of songs, duets, and glees, the whole of which gave great satisfaction.

Pontypool, Monmouth.—A Miscellaneous Concert, in aid of the Talywain Church Repairs Fund, was given by the St. James's Choir, assisted by several amateur friends, at Abersychan, on the 4th ult. The choir rendered, with much taste, several glees and part-songs; and a string band played three operatic selections. A pianoforte solo, by Mr. Ernest Deacon; harp solos, by Mr. Llewellin Williams, and a duo for violin and pianoforte, by Messrs. Sewell and E. Deacon, were given with much success. There were about 700 people present.

Preston.—The *Messiah* was given by the Members of the Parish Church, assisted by other choirs of the town, in the Guild-Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 23rd December. The orchestra was composed of members of Mr. C. Hallé's band, and of the Choral Society. The solo vocalists were Miss Elam (soprano), Mr. Hilton (bass), members of the Parish Church Choir. Miss Hirst, of Huddersfield (contralto), and Mr. Taylor, of Bolton (tenor). The solos were well rendered; and the choruses sung with much vigour and effect. The trumpet *obbligato*, by Mr. Whewell, was excellently played. Mr. Greaves presided at the harmonium, and the Rev. J. Eckersley acted as conductor.

Reading.—At a Concert given to Mr. W. H. Birch, on the 4th ult., at the Town Hall, a very handsome silver-mounted *bâton*, and an illuminated address were presented to him by the ex-Mayor (J. T. Morris, Esq.), in which he paid a well-merited compliment upon Mr. Birch's abilities as a musician, and to the indefatigable manner in which he had laboured to promote the spread of good music in the town. Mr. Birch briefly returned thanks; and the Concert concluded with the National Anthem.

Royston.—The Amateur Musical Society held its 26th open meeting, on the 26th Dec., in the Hall of the Institute. Amongst the instrumental compositions performed were Haydn's "Kinder Symphonie," an organ solo by the conductor, Dr. Garrett, and Mozart's Sonata in E flat, for pianoforte and violin. The vocal music comprised Spohr's 84th Psalm, a selection from Haydn's Mass, No. 1, and several part-songs. All the pieces were well rendered; and proved that the Society is making steady progress.

Salisbury.—Two Concerts were lately given by the Amateur Orchestral Union, at the Assembly Rooms, which were fully and fashionably attended. The programme contained many excellent instrumental works, amongst which were the overtures to *Egmont*, *Melusine*, *Hebrides*, &c., Beethoven's Symphony in F, (No. 8), and Mendelssohn's violin concerto. One of the principal pieces in the vocal selection was Weber's "Ocean, thou mighty monster," which was excellently rendered. Solos on the pianoforte, by Mr. De Windt, and on the harmonium, by Mrs. De Windt, were also much admired. The band of the Union contained several well-known amateurs, many of whom are members of the Wandering Minstrels, and other Societies. The Concert was given in aid of the funds of the Diocesan Choral Association.

Sheffield.—The Sheffield Choral Union gave the first of the series of performances for this season on Saturday, the 26th Dec., in the Music Hall. The Oratorio on this occasion was the *Messiah*. The principal vocalists were Miss Helena Walker, Miss Phillips, Mr. Robson, and Mr. Briggs. The solos were well sung; and the choruses given with much precision and energy. Mr. W. Stubbs most ably conducted, and Mr. Phillips presided at the organ. The concert was a great success. ——The St. Stephen's annual gathering was held in the Temperance Hall, on the 29th December. The choir was assisted by Miss Harrison, Mrs. House, Messrs. Kay, Hattersley, and Styring. A selection of songs and glees was effectively given; and a lecture, by the Rev. J. Burbidge, was exceedingly well received.——On the 18th ult., the Sheffield Amateur Harmonic Society gave a selection from the works of Dr. Sterndale Bennett, as a complimentary concert to, and in the presence of, that eminent composer. *The Woman of Samaria* was the chief item in the programme.

Shotley Bridge.—A Concert was given by Mr. E. Burton, Organist of St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside, on the 28th December, at the Town Hall. The principal vocalists were Miss Helena Walker, Miss Crosland, and Mr. Brooke. The programme was entirely composed of vocal music; most of which was popular; and every piece was warmly received. Several members of the Benfieldside Church Choir (most ably trained by Mr. Burton) lent their assistance, and contributed much to the success of the evening. The Concert was efficiently conducted by Mr. Burton.

Shrewsbury.—Mr. Walter Hay's Concert in the Music Hall on Monday, the 11th ult., was highly successful. The great attraction of the programme was the new Cantata, *The days of King Arthur*, which without entering into any criticism upon its merits, we may say was received with the utmost favour. Amongst the vocalists specially worthy of mention were Miss Rachel Gray, Mrs. J. R. Legh, Miss E. H. Lloyd, and Mr. C. W. Charlton. Mr. Hay very efficiently conducted.

Sudbury.—A Concert was given by the Sudbury Amateur Musical Society, under the able direction of Mr. Orlando Steed, on the 7th ult., at the Town Hall, which was fully attended. Several part-songs and glees were well rendered during the evening; and amongst the vocal solos was one composed and sung by the conductor, which was encored. A sonata, by Dussek, was effectively performed on the pianoforte by Miss H. Steed; and Master Bruce, who accompanied most of the vocal music, showed remarkable talent. Both these pianists are Mr. Steed's pupils, and are not more than twelve years of age. Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Sparrow, and Mr. Westoby were much applauded in their vocal solos.

Tottenham.—On Saturday, the 9th ult., a Concert was given, at the Lecture Hall, under the direction of Mr. G. Lansdowne Cottell. It was entitled, "An Evening with Sir H. Bishop"; although, according to the programme, only the first part of the entertainment was devoted to the works of this composer. There were several encores during the evening; and the performance was received throughout with marked approbation.

Trowbridge.—On the 22nd Dec., Handel's *Messiah* was given at Hill's Public Hall, by the amalgamated societies of Trowbridge, Frome, and neighbouring towns, numbering a band and chorus of over 130 performers. The solo vocalists were the Misses Foote, Messrs. Price, Lister, Harris, Harvey, and Trotman. Herr Pfieffer, of Bristol, led the band, Mr. J. D. Cox, of Frome, presided at the organ, and Mr. H. Millington, organist and professor, of Trowbridge, conducted.

Watford.—A very excellent performance of Handel's *Messiah* was given by the Watford Harmonic Society, at the Corn Exchange, on the 4th ult. The principal vocalists were Miss Maria Langley, Miss Lizzie Riseam, Mr. F. G. Pratt, and Mr. H Bell. Miss Langley and Miss Riseam won the most enthusiastic applause in their solos; and Messrs. Pratt and Bell were also thoroughly satisfactory in the arduous music allotted to them. The orchestra was most efficient; and the choruses were rendered with much energy and precision. Mr. Peel was an able conductor.

Wigton.—An attractive Concert was given by the Choral Society on Friday evening, the 8th ult. Amongst the sacred choruses given, "How lovely are the messengers" (*St. Paul*), "To Thee, great Lord" (Rossini), and "As pants the hart" (Spohr)—the solo, beautifully rendered by Miss Marion McNaughten—deserve especial mention. In the secular part, Mendelssohn's "Farewell to the Forest," "Victors' Return," and "Hunting Song," were all given with much success. Several songs and duets were also effectively rendered. Mr. J. Johnson conducted with his usual judgment; and great credit is due to him for the efficient state to which he has brought the Society.

Wilton.—On the 31st December, the Wilton Choral Society gave a Concert, which was attended by a numerous audience. The principal vocalists were Miss Ida Thorne, Mrs. C. H. Barrows, and W. H. Woodcock,

Esq., who sang several vocal solos with much effect, many being loudly encored. The overture and choral music were well rendered by the members of the Society, under the able direction of their excellent conductor, Mr. J. Goulden. Miss Brazier accompanied the choruses on the harmonium, and the songs on the pianoforte with good feeling and judgment.

Windsor.—The annual *Soirée* of the Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution was held on the 11th ult., at the Town Hall. Several songs were given, amongst which we may mention "Non e ver," by Miss Fletcher, R.A.M., and "The Woodpecker," by Mr. S. Smith. Mr. W. S. Bambridge's pianoforte solos were most deservedly applauded; and a clarionet solo by Mr. H. Style was also exceedingly well received.

Worcester.—The Worcester Choral Society's performance of the *Messiah* was this year again given at low prices, so as to enable almost all classes to hear this great work. The principal singers were Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Hemsley, Mr. Dyson, and Mr. Millward. Mrs. Sutton gave all the soprano music with much success; especially, "I know that my Redeemer liveth;" and the male vocalists were also well received. Mr. Langdon's solo trumpet parts in the "Hallelujah" chorus, and "The trumpet shall sound," produced a marked effect; he has an excellent tone, and played with much spirit and judgment. Mr. Done conducted; and Mr. Quarterman exhibited much taste and skill in his accompaniments on the organ.

Organ Appointments.—Mr. W. Smith, of Watford Church, to St. Matthias, Hare Street, Bethnal Green.——Mr. J. E. Butler, late of St. Jude's, Bethnal Green, to St. Paul's, Bethnal Green.——Mr. S. Rushton, to St. Thomas, Charterhouse.——Mr. J. W. E. Wimble, Organist and Choirmaster, to St. John's, Hammersmith. ——Mr. Herbert Winny, Organist and Choirmaster, to Braintree.——Mr. H. T. Pringuer, Organist, St. Dunstan's Church, Canterbury, to Emmanuel Church, Sidlow, Reigate.——George P. Pigrome, to the Parish Church, Friern Barnet, Middlesex.——Mr. Thomas K. Baldock, to the Lambeth Wesleyan Chapel, Lambeth Road.

Choir Appointments.—Mr. D. Dickson, Tenor Singer, to St. George's Church, Campden Hill. ——Mr. T. F. Tucker, Bass, to St. Peter's, Notting Hill.

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